

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-01
DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01
SY-05 DODE-00 /066 W
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P 061240Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2046
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, CG, FR, GW

SUBJ: DETENTION OF GERMAN AND FRENCH JOURNALISTS

REF: (A) LUB 244 (NOTAL) (B) KINSHASA 4079, (C) LUB 253

1. WE MET THIS MORNING WITH UWE HENRICH, FIRST SECRETARY
FRG EMBASSY CURRENTLY IN LUBUMBASHI, AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS
CASE OF GERMAN JOURNALIST FOLLERT OF STERN CURRENTLY DETAINED BY
GOZ ON SUSPICION OF ESPIONAGE. HENRICH SAID HE HAS PRIVATE
INDICATIONS THAT GOZ PLANNING TO CLAIM FOLLERT AND FRENCH COLLEAGUE
BOSSU WERE CAPTURED IN MUTSHATSHA, OR AT LEAST IN COMBAT AREA,
AND THUS LINK THEIR CASE TO CASE OF ENGLISH JOURNALIST/SPANISH
TV TEAM CAPTURED IN MUTSHATSHA LATER (REF A). CONSEQUENTLY,
HE SEEKING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT JOURNALISTS' CONTENTION THEY
ARRESTED AT KASUMBALESA POST AT ZAMBIAN-ZAIRIAN BORDER.

2. HENRICH SAID JOURNALISTS SAY THEY SOUGHT ZAIRIAN VISAS
WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR A MONTH IN EUROPE. THEY OBTAINED LETTER
OF RECOMMENDATION FROM ANTI-MOBUTU LEADER IN BRUSSELS (PRESUMABLY)
RAPHAEL MUMBA -- SEE REF B), WHO GAVE THEM NAME OF CONTACT IN
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ZAIRIAN EMBASSY LUSAKA TO FACILITATE THEIR ENTRY INTO COUNTRY AND
THEIR WORK. CONTACT NOW BELIEVED BY HENRICH TO HAVE DOUBLE-CROSSED
THEM AND TO HAVE NOTIFIED ZAIRIAN SECURITY (CND) OF THEIR PLANS.
JOURNALISTS SAY CONTACT SAID HE HAD FRIEND IN IMMIGRATION AT
KASUMBALESA CROSSING WHO COULD GET THEM INTO ZAIRE. JOURNALISTS
THEN SAY THEY DRIVEN TO BORDER IN ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE,
AND ABRUPTLY ARRESTED BY ZAIRIAN SECURITY. HENRICH SAID

JOURNALISTS HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION SOME ANTI-MOBUTU TRACTS THEY HAD PICKED UP, ALSO NAMES OF CONTACTS IN SHABA UNDOUBTEDLY HOSTILE TO MOBUTU. HENRICH ADDED THERE NO QUESTION IN HIS MIND THAT THEY LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTS, SOMEWHAT NAIVE AND FOOLISH ABOUT THEIR CHOICE OF COURSE OF ACTION IN WAR-TORN COUNTRY WITH NO TRADITION OF PRESS FREEDOMS, BUT THEY CERTAINLY NOT SPIES. HENRICH ADDED THAT LOCAL CND DIRECTOR AT FIRST CONVINCED THEY SPIES, THAT AFTER STUDYING CASE FURTHER SEEMS TO HAVE DRAWN BACK FROM THAT CONCLUSION BUT THAT HIGHER GOZ AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE SEIZED UPON CASE FOR OWN PURPOSES AND ARE FLOATING ESPIONAGE STORY.

3. IN LIGHT OF STORY ABOUT ZAIRIAN EMBASSY LUSAKA'S INVOLVEMENT, WE TOLD HENRICH OF REPORT WE HAD TO EFFECT THAT ON APRIL 20 ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA HAD DRIVEN TO MUSOSHI (JUST ON ZAIRIAN SIDE OF BORDER) WITH URGENT MESSAGE TO TRANSMIT TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OF SHABA CONCERNING ATTEMPT BY "TWO EAST GERMAN SPIES" TO INFILTRATE ZAIRE FROM ZAMBIA (REF B). HENRICH VERY INTERESTED IN STORY,. WHICH POSSIBLY LINKED TO FOLLERT AND BOSSU CASE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS NOTES JOURNALISTS ARRESTED AROUND APRIL 18, TWO DAYS BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT, SO HENRICH NOT SURE THIS INCIDENT RELATED.

4. SINCE ARRESTED JOURNALISTS ALL NOW BELIEVED TO BE IN KINSHASA, HENRICH BELIEVES NO USE IN CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE, AND RETURNING TO KINSHASA MAY 6. BORG

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